

Spring 2009
Thurs 2-4pm
Ann Blair

History 73b (formerly 90d)
Syllabus
Introduction to Intellectual History

This reading seminar is designed as an introduction to major themes, periods and authors in intellectual history. Through discussion of an important work of intellectual history each week students will gain exposure to selected developments in intellectual history from antiquity to the 20th century, in the West and beyond, and to a range of fruitful approaches represented in the field. Students will be guided through the stages of writing a bibliographic essay on a topic of their choice. Designed for current and future history concentrators, but open to those with similar needs, with the consent of the instructor.

Requirements:

- active and informed participation: 20%
- short paper (4-6pp), due in week IV, analyzing your choice of weekly readings to date: 20%
- short written exercises and short oral presentations (as scheduled and to be assigned): 20%
- final bibliographic essay (10-12pp), on a topic of your choice which meets with the instructor's approval: 40%

Books on order at the COOP:

These books have been ordered at the COOP for your convenience (prices are from amazon); they are also available for sale elsewhere. All books are on reserve in the libraries and many are available in multiple copies, so that you could check out a copy for your own use. Buy only what you'd like to own; no purchases are required.

Alexandre Koyré, From the closed world to the infinite universe any edition is fine

Thomas Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (Univ of Chicago Press, 1996); ISBN 978-0226458083; \$10

Quentin Skinner, Machiavelli: a very short introduction (OUP, 2001); 120pp; 978-0192854070; \$9.95

[Quentin Skinner, Visions of Politics, vol I (Cambridge Univ Press, 2002); 978-0521589260; \$25]

Bernard Bailyn, Ideological Origins of the American Revolution (Belknap Press of HUP, 1992); ISBN: 978-0674443020; \$21

Roger Chartier, The cultural origins of the French revolution (Duke Univ Press, 1991); 978-0822309932; \$21

Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish: the birth of the prison (Vintage, 1995); 978-0679752554; \$10

Carl Schorske, Fin de Siècle Vienna: politics and culture (Vintage, 1980); 432pp; \$15; 978-0394744780

Peter Novick, That noble dream: the objectivity question and the American historical profession (Cambridge UP, 1988); 978-0521357456; \$28

Readings not available for sale:

A number of readings are listed as "on-line"--to locate these start with a journal search on HOLLIS and follow the links to the on-line versions on Harvard's e-resources. Other items will be distributed in class.

Syllabus

Week I (Jan 29)--introduction

Historical overview; some primary sources

Week II (Feb 5): programmatic statements

Reading:

Arthur Lovejoy, "Reflections on the history of ideas" *Journal of the History of Ideas* 1:1 (1940), pp. 3-23 (on-line)

John Herman Randall, Jr, "How History Brings Understanding" in *How Philosophy Uses Its Past* (1963), pp. 73-101

Donald Kelley, "What is Happening to the History of Ideas?" *Journal of the History of Ideas* (1990). [on-line]

Robert Darnton, "Intellectual and cultural history" in his *The Kiss of Lamourette* (1990)

Annabel Brett, "What is Intellectual History Now?" in David Cannadine ed., *What is History Now?* (2002), pp. 113-31

Anthony Grafton, "The History of Ideas, precept and practice, 1950-2000 and beyond," *JHI* 67:1 (2006), (on-line), pp. 1-32.

Presentations on each article

Cluster 1: the study of nature

Week III (Feb 12):

Assignment to bring to class: HOLLIS self-test

Reading:

Alexandre Koyré, *From the closed world to the infinite universe* (Hideyo Oguchi lectures, 1957)

Presentation on Alexandre Koyré

Week IV (Feb 19): internalist vs externalist explanations

Assignment: find one book review of Kuhn, SSR and be prepared to give a quick synopsis in class

Reading:

Thomas S Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolution* (first published 1962)

Presentations on book reviews of Kuhn by those who have not yet presented

SHORT PAPER DUE Tuesday Feb 24: write 4-6pp comparing and contrasting two readings assigned so far (books or articles)

Cluster 2: political thought

Week V (Feb 26): the Cambridge school

Assignment this week: come to office hours to discuss paper topics --come prepared with 2-3 topic ideas

Reading: Quentin Skinner, Machiavelli: a very short introduction (2001)

Quentin Skinner, "Introduction," "The Practice of History and the Cult of the Fact," "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas," in Skinner, Visions of Politics, I: Concerning Method, pp. 1-7, 8-26, 57-89.

Presentation on Quentin Skinner

Week VI (March 5): revolution and republic

Assignment this week: come to office hours to discuss paper topics --come prepared with 2-3 topic ideas

Reading: Bernard Bailyn, The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution (first published 1967)

James Kloppenberg, "The Virtues of Liberalism: Christianity, Republicanism and Ethics in Early American Political Discourse," Journal of American History 74 (1987), 9-33 (on-line)

Presentation on Bernard Bailyn

Week VII (March 12): the cultural turn

Reading: Roger Chartier, The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution (first published in 1991 in French and English)

Presentation on Roger Chartier or Robert Darnton

Week VIII (March 19): preliminary presentations on paper topics

Assignment to bring to class and present orally in class: paper prospectus --in 1- 1 ½ pp state your topic, its significance, the question(s) you would like to answer, the difficulties you anticipate. Please include a bibliography of secondary sources. Class session will be devoted to oral presentations of the prospectuses and group discussion of the topics and how to approach the difficulties.

WEEK IX -spring break

Cluster 3: social sciences

WEEK X (April 2): the hermeneutics of suspicion

Assignment to bring to class: close reading of a passage from one of your sources which you would like to highlight and/or critique

Reading: Foucault, Discipline and Punish: the birth of the prison (first published in French in 1975, in English in 1977)

Presentation on Michel Foucault

Week X (April 9): the rise of social sciences

Reading: Carl Schorske, Fin-de-siecle Vienna (first published 1979)

Presentation on Carl Schorske (see his autobiographical lecture of 1987 in the ACLS "A life of learning series")

Week XII (April 16): the historical profession

Assignment to bring to class: title, preliminary thesis statement and outline of your final paper

Reading: Peter Novick, That Noble Dream (1988), pp. 1-85, 469-510, 522-69

Thomas Haskell, "Objectivity is not Neutrality: Rhetoric versus Practice in Peter Novick's *That Noble Dream*," in Haskell, Objectivity is not Neutrality: Explanatory Schemes in History (Baltimore, 1998), pp. 145-73

Lorraine Daston, "Objectivity and the Flight from Perspective," from Science studies Reader, ed Mario Biagioli (New York, 1999)

Week XIII-XIV (April 23, 30): student presentations on their final papers

FINAL PAPERS DUE last day of reading period: Wed May 13